

July 1, 2003 – June 30, 2004 Report of Accomplishments Skagit Conservation District



Mission of the Skagit Conservation District

- *To provide voluntary, incentive based options that support working landscapes while protecting and enhancing our natural resource land base.*



Water Quality Implementation/Small Farm Program

- *Nine small farm conservation plans were completed.*
- *Four pasture management plans were completed.*
- *SCD personnel provided technical assistance to 14 landowners for the following design/implementation projects that included best management practices, such as a solid waste structure, roof water diversion, an alternative watering system, and sacrifice areas.*
- *The District distributed \$8,000 in cost-share funds to assist in bmp implementation.*
- *A six-week short course entitled "Living on the Land – Stewardship for Small Acreages" was designed and presented to 21 landowners who live in the Padilla, Samish, and Skagit Watersheds.*

Professional Engineering

- *Design, permits, & construction of culvert to bridge replacement for fish passage on Skiyou Slough.*
- *Designs for dry manure storage, bank erosion control, drainage improvements, stock watering pipeline, stormwater bmps, wetland enhancement, dairy waste runoff control, low impact development, creek stabilization weirs, and culvert replacement projects.*
- *Lead for characterization of hydrology and groundwater in No Name Slough Watershed.*

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) & Salmon Recovery Funding (SRFB)

- *19 CREP projects were implemented, utilizing nearly 50,000 trees & shrubs planted on over 113 acres for a new program total of over 21 miles of riparian buffer to provide benefits to water quality and fish and wildlife.*
- *11 new CREP plans were written and are ready for implementation in 2004, bringing the total number contracts in Skagit County to 67.*
- *Five SRFB projects were implemented on 70 acres for an additional mile of riparian habitat improvement.*

Dairy

- *All 56 Skagit dairies have approved nutrient management plans.*
- *39 dairies have now met the criteria for full implementation and achieved certification status.*
- *The District provided \$55,000 in cost-share funds to assist in the implementation of nutrient management plans.*

Puget Sound/Basic Funding/Local Funding

These funding sources were combined to support our Conservation Education and Forestry Programs. Our accomplishments include:

Forest Stewardship Program

- *Seven forest stewardship plans covering 83.6 acres were prepared.*
- *The SCD assisted 12 landowners in receiving a total of \$25,366 in cost-share to implement bmps and complete road maintenance and abandonment and alternate plans.*
- *Completed seven re-certifications of Tree Farms to meet American Forestry Foundation Standards.*

- In partnership with USFS, 40 culverts were removed to prevent road failure and mass wasting on logging roads in the Finney Watershed.

Watershed Masters Volunteer Training Program

- Fifteen individuals completed the Fall 2003 Watershed Masters Training Program held in Concrete, bringing the total participants to date to 231. New this year was a focus on the upper Skagit Watershed, and funding through the Title II program.
- Volunteer hours contributions reported on environmental projects and education: 1,147 hours (1,147 hours @ \$16.05/hr (current volunteer rate) = \$18,409.35)
- Overall volunteer hours: over 8,150,000 hours recorded (however, the majority of Watershed Masters continue their volunteer work well beyond the required 40 documented hours) – 8,150 hours @ \$ 16.05/hr. = \$130,807.50

Skagit Stream Team Program

- 34 volunteers were recognized for participating in the 2002-03 sampling season (September 2002 thru June 2003).
- 24 sites, located in the Nookachamps, Padilla Bay, and Samish Watersheds were monitored.
- Fecal coliform tests lab rates for sampling season valued at \$23,328 (This figure does not include other parameters tested, field time, nor data compilation time.).

Volunteer Shellfish Monitoring Program

- 20 community volunteers participated in the 2003 sampling season.
- 14 recreational shellfish harvesting beaches were sampled for PSP and fecal coliform by volunteers twice/month from May through September.

Environmental Education

- 10 school presentations were conducted to a total of (approximately) 238 students. Topics included, the "Value and Function of Trees"; Watersheds and Water Quality (using the enviroscape model); Amphibians and Wetlands; Aquatic Insects; Soils; and Salmon and Stream Ecology.
- The Annual 6th Grade Conservation Tour was held at Pomona Grange Park on May 14th and 15th. Twenty-two sixth grade classes participated in the event (approximately 550 students).
- Informational packets, promoting the District's school presentation and youth education programs were redesigned and distributed to approximately 731 local teachers. The packets also included information about the supplemental curriculum materials and educational videos that the District has available in the SCD educational library for teachers to borrow.
- Soil and Water Stewardship Week - A community proclamation in recognition of "Soil & Water Stewardship Week" was televised, presented, and signed at the Skagit County Commissioners meeting. A poster contest for local youth (grades k-12) was conducted.
- Upper Skagit Bald Eagle Festival - Developed and hosted educational booth - Audience: 8,000+.
- Skagit County Family Harvest Festival: Developed and hosted an educational booth and distributed educational and program promotional materials at the Double O Ranch in Concrete on October 6th – Audience: 250.
- Skagit Conservation Education Alliance coordination moved forward with the creation of a nine-member board, the receipt of a \$20,000 seed money grant from the Russell Family Foundation, and partnership with Taylor United in the first local Shellfish Seed Sale and the First Annual Bivalve Bash and Mud Run (approximately 500 attendees).

Newsletters and Fliers

- Skagit Conservation News – sent to mailing list of approximately 3,200 twice a year.
- Stream Team News – for Stream Team volunteers to update on monitoring and upcoming events.
- Watershed Masters Calendar of Upcoming Events – Periodic mailing to 220+ individuals to provide information regarding upcoming volunteer opportunities and other community events.
- Watershed Masters & Stream Team programs promotional brochures – distribution: 2,500.

Skagit Conservation District - assisting land managers with their conservation choices

